



CHESTERFIELD - TRAVESTIE - PHILA., 1812

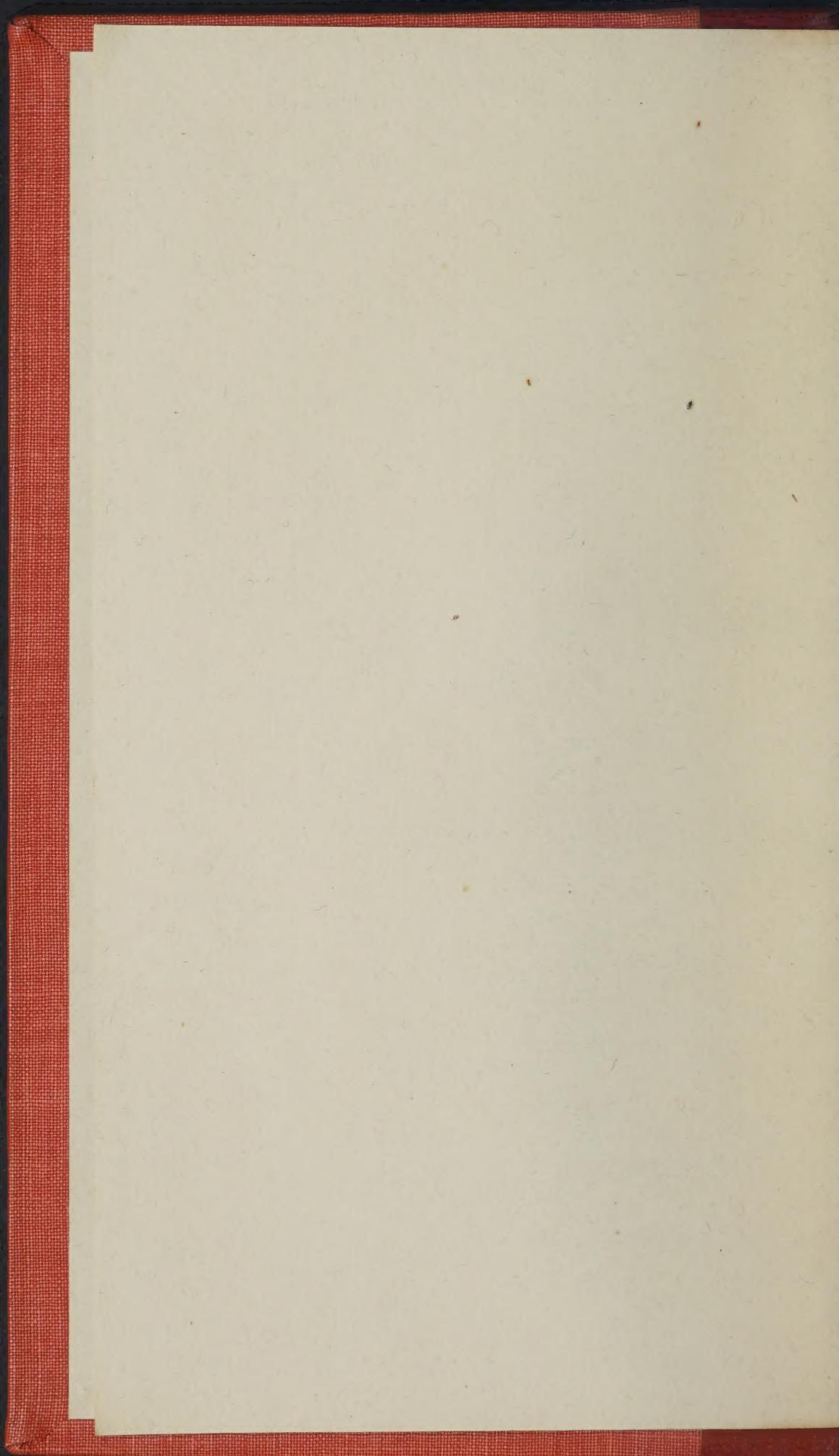




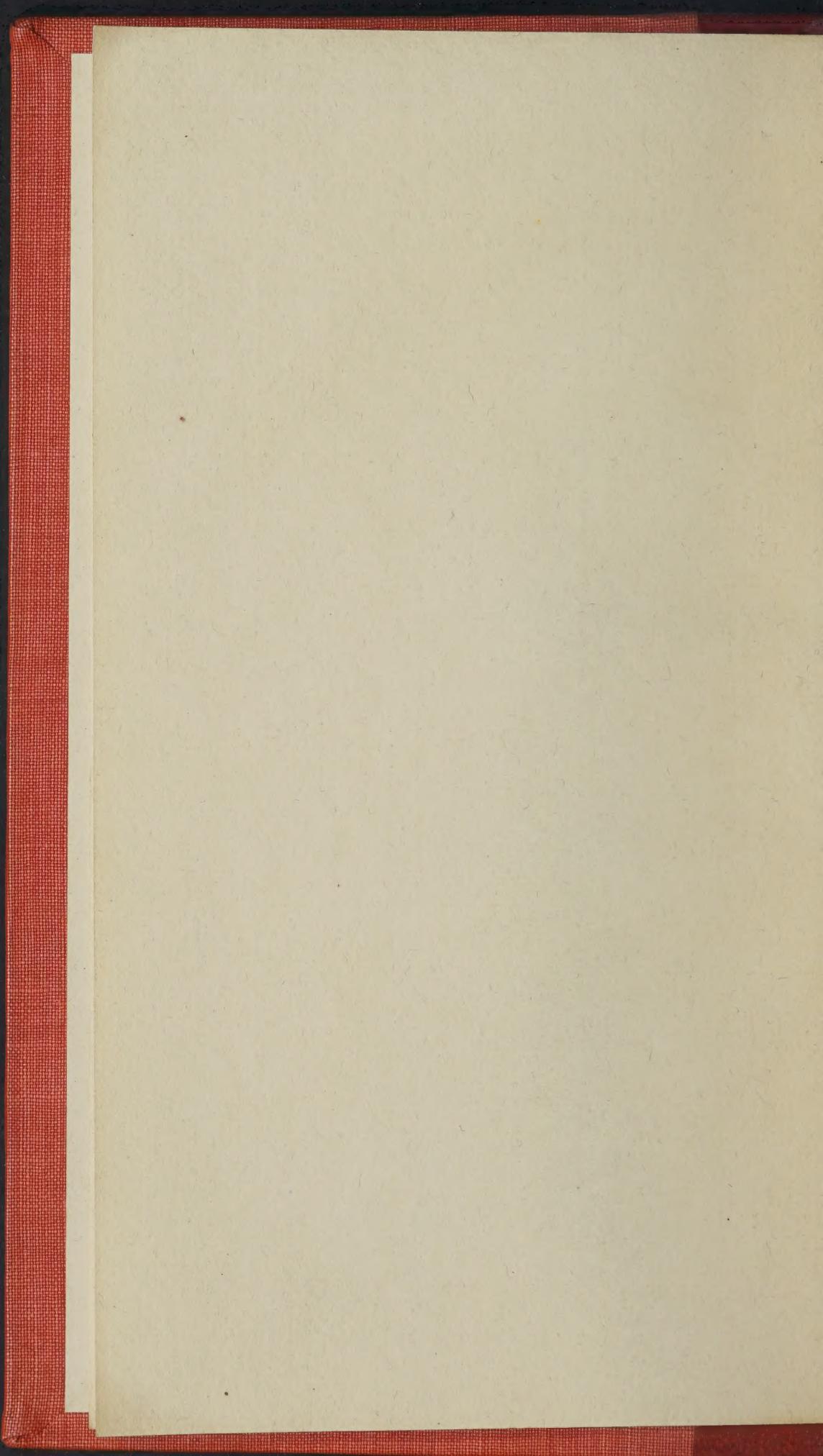


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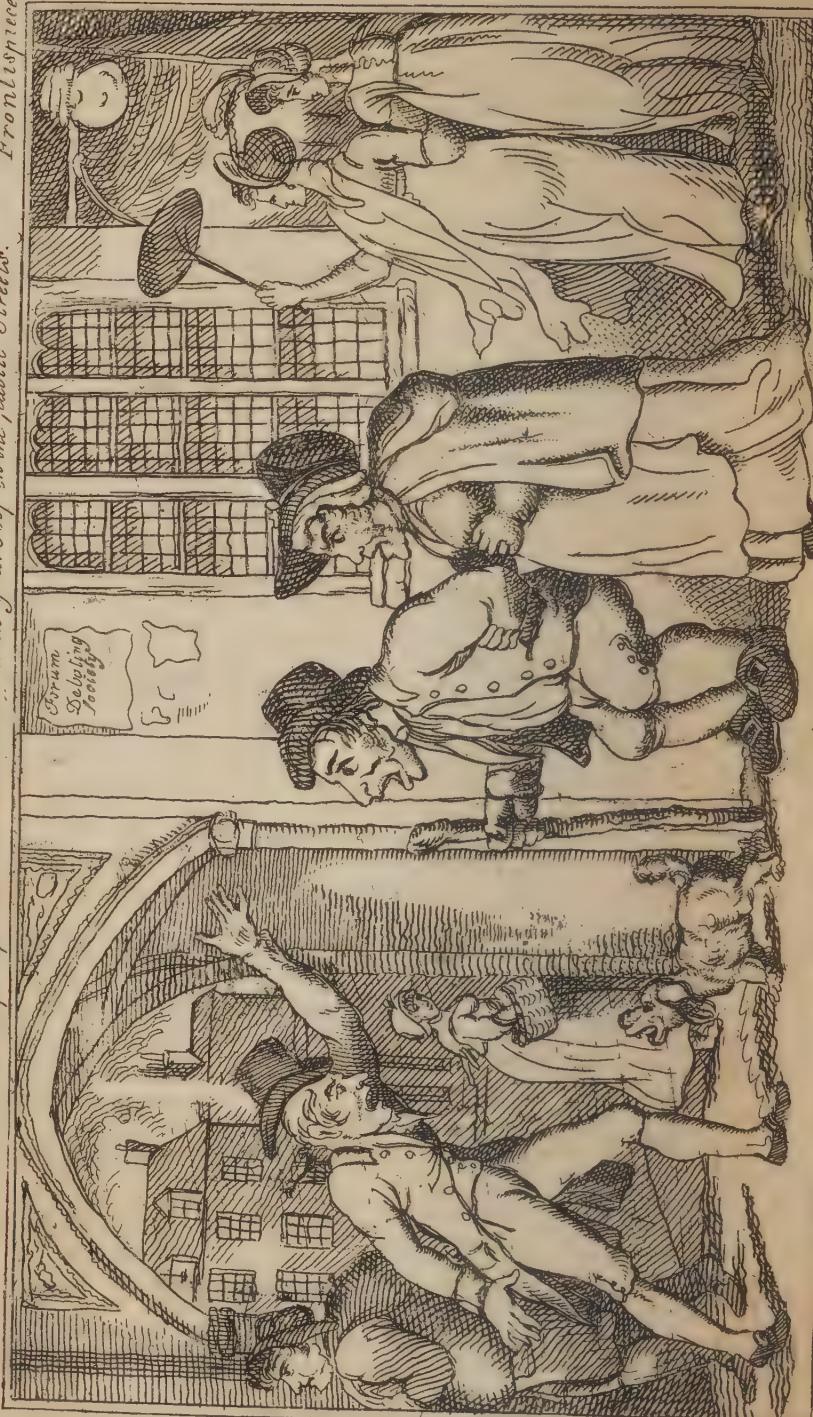








*How to keep up a Conversation with yourself in the public Streets.* Frontispiece



CHESTERFIELD  
TRAVESTIE;  
OR,  
SCHOOL  
FOR  
MODERN MANNERS.

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EMBELLISHED WITH SIX CARICATURES,  
*Engraved from original Drawings by Rowlandson.*

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FROM THE LAST LONDON EDITION.

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“The better sort should have before ‘em  
“A grace, a manner, a decorum.” *Butler.*  
“O Tempora! O Mores!” *Juvenal.*  
“The times are out of joint. O cursed spite,  
“That ever I was born to set them right.” *Shakspeare.*

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A. MILTENBERGER; IN NORFOLK, BY CALEB BONSAL; IN  
PETERSBURGH, BY J. W. CAMPBELL; IN RICHMOND, BY SAM.  
PLEASANTS, AND FITZWHYLONN AND POTTER; AND IN FRED-  
ERICKSBURGH, BY WILLIAM F. GRAY.

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## DEDICATION.

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*TO GEORGE COLMAN, ESQ.*

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SIR,

CONGENIALITY of sentiment joins with a sense of propriety, in leading me to dedicate this publication to you. The genuine humour and piercing wit which distinguish your compositions, having long gained you a name among your countrymen, you need not the testimony of a dedication to establish your character as a writer of the first reputation; therefore I shall avoid that adulation which usually accompanies an offering of this sort; assuring you, should this trifle obtain your sanction, I shall consider myself as honoured with the approbation of the first satirist of the age.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most devoted servant,  
THE AUTHOR.

CHAPTER COFFEE-HOUSE,  
Aug. 20, 1808.

## CONTENTS.

---

	Page.
CHAPTER I.	
Rules for walking the Streets, and other Public Places	5
CHAPTER II.	
Behaviour at Table	12
CHAPTER III.	
Directions respecting Apparel, &c.	20
CHAPTER IV.	
Short Directions respecting Behaviour at the Theatres	24
CHAPTER V.	
Rules for Conversation	26
CHAPTER VI.	
Rules to be observed at Cards, in private Families	48
CHAPTER VII.	
General Rules for Good-Breeding, on various Occasions	53

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## DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

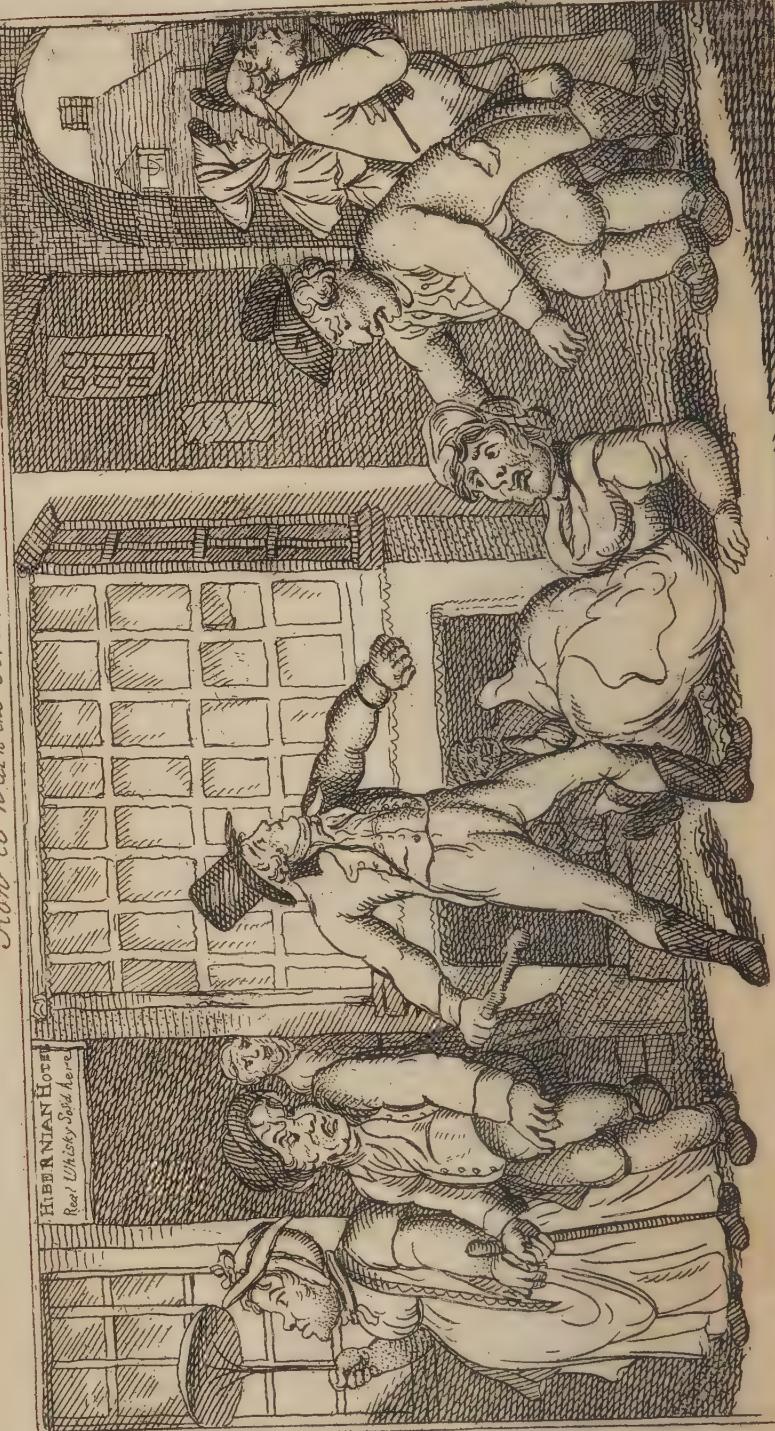
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	Page.
How to keep up a conversation with yourself in the Public Streets.... <i>Frontispiece.</i>	
How to walk the Streets	5
The Art of Quizzing	6
Behaviour at Table, No. 1	12
do.        do. No. 2	13
How to look over your Husband's Hand while at Cards	50



*How to walk the Streets*

Page 5



## CHESTERFIELD TRAVESTIE.

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### CHAP. I.

#### RULES FOR WALKING THE STREETS, OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES.

“Careful observers, studious of the town,  
“Shun the misfortunes that disgrace the clown.”

*Gay's Trivia.*

IF you walk in the park, or any other public place, with a superior, always observe to take the upper hand yourself. If three or more be in company, be sure to place yourself in the middle.

If, whilst you are walking, you see any person of your acquaintance passing, be sure to bawl and hem after him, like a butcher out of a public-house window; and leave those you are walking with, to run after him.

In walking through a crowded street, throw your legs and arms about in every direction, as

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Rules for Walking the Streets, &c.

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if you were rowing for Doggett's coat and badge.

**N. B.** If you have a short thick stick, it will be of great advantage.

If two companies are passing each other, it is a sign you are acquainted with the principles of good manners when you look over the shoulder of your friend, with a fashionable grin, lisp-ing out, at the same time, "a d—d fine woman," or, "a queer quiz, 'pon honour!"

If you be walking the streets when any idle curiosity is going forward, immediately mix with the crowd. If you lose your gold watch, or snuff-box, it will teach you good manners in future, not to pry too hastily into other people's affairs.

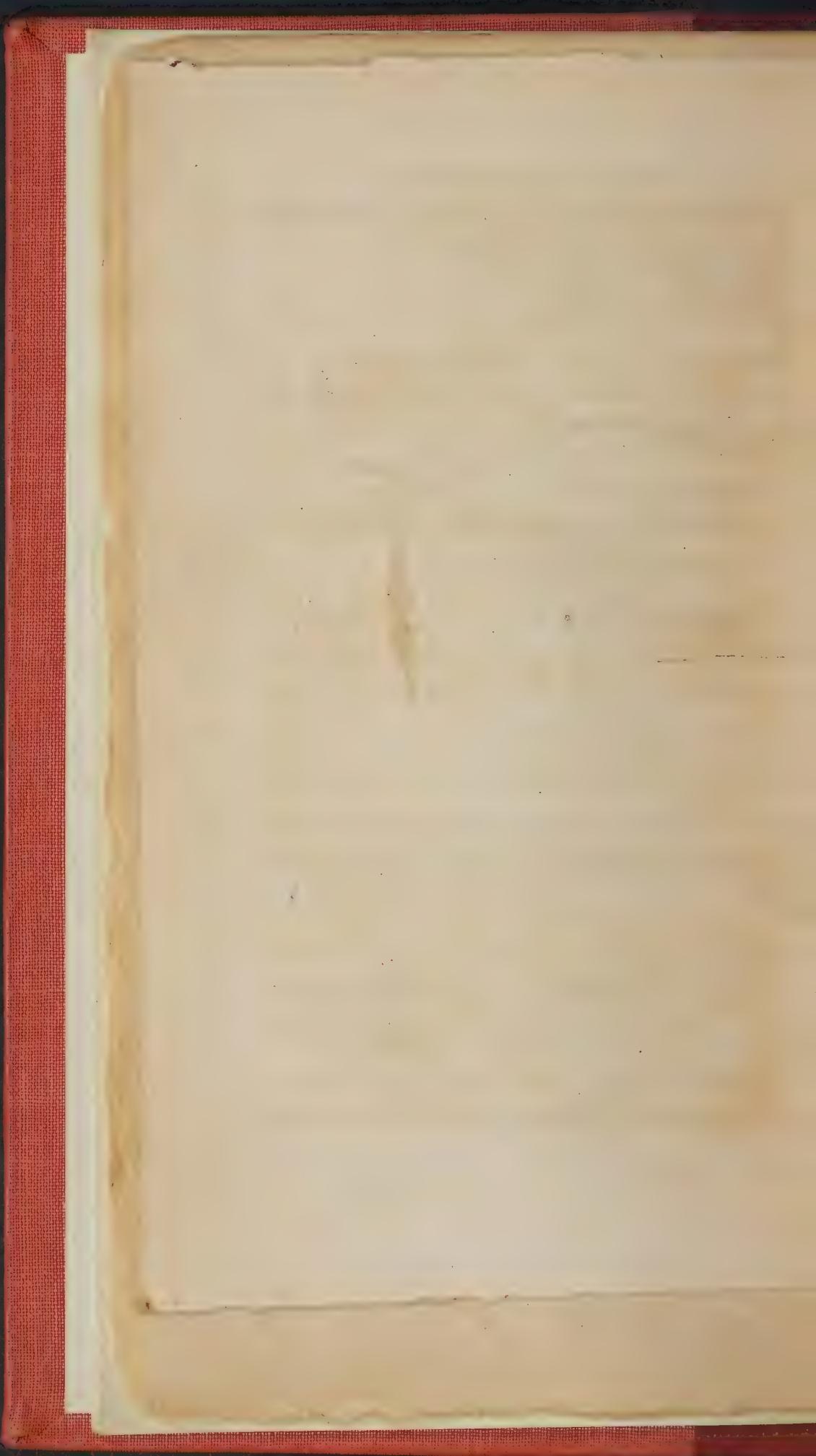
It is a fine quiz to gape at a person worn down with a consumption; at one incurably lame, or hump-backed, or wizen faced; at one afflicted with the jaundice, or labouring under any other visible infirmity, as they pass along; and stare at them like a countryman at a print-shop.

Should it be a rainy-day, and you use an umbrella, pay no regard to breaking a few shop-windows in your passage, from your careless manner of carrying it.

The Art of Quisjung

D...d fine Woman - fair Honor - <sup>she</sup> what a <sup>curious</sup> <sup>way</sup> of a <sup>curious</sup> fellow she has taken in love there.





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Rules for Walking the Streets, &c.

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In walking, to keep up a conversation with yourself, has a fine effect, particularly if you accompany it with extravagant gestures. If you be too well dressed for a poet, or an actor, you will be sure to be taken for a member of parliament, studying an opposition speech, to astonish the ministry.

Many men of known judgment conceive, and very properly, that wit, sense, and every good quality, is centered in making a proper use of your limbs ; therefore, if you wish to make a figure in the world, as a wonderful and extraordinary clever fellow, without attending to the dull trammels of a regular scholastic education, go into training immediately for a pedestrian match against time. Make your bets sure, and start at Newmarket, or any other place of public notoriety. Your name will be immortalized fifty times before such worn-out characters as Newton, Locke, Milton, Shakspeare, and many others, scarcely worth recollection. **N. B.** In all your walks, endeavour to put a decent going horse out of countenance. If you can but manage this, you are made on the turf for ever.

It has been very ridiculously observed, by some few white-wigged wiseacres, that every

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Rules for Walking the Streets, &c.

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sensible man must be convinced that the more remote and contrary his actions are to those of brutes, the nearer he approaches human perfection!—Poor ignorant old-fashioned quizzes! Little did they know of Captain Barclay, or the Brighton Shepherd.

It is very becoming to run along the street, like a little shop-keeper to a ready-money customer, or a dancing-master to wait on a new pupil. It also looks very well to stop and loiter at every new object you pass, like a printer's errand boy, who is sent with a proof-sheet to an impatient author.

I would particularly recommend to dashing young men of fashion, to put on a contemptuous look, or an escaping eye, on an old acquaintance, if he happen to have met with misfortunes, and particularly so if he should be rather shabby in his apparel. It shews good sense and discrimination.

For the edification of a modern man of fashion, it may here be necessary to enumerate a few examples of what may be termed English familiarities.

Two men meeting in the street, resembling the Hand-in-Hand Fire-Office, accosting each

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Rules for Walking the Streets, &c.

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other with “How are you, my hearty? Come tip us a shake of your daddle,” &c. Another, that has not seen his friend for some time, exclaims, “Why, you dirty black-guard, where have you been all this while? I have been every where in search of you; but, however, you jolly dog, how do you do? Come, let’s lay hold of your paw.” Two neighbours in the same alley, meeting together, form a good example of the familiar. “Ah, John, how are you? Where are you stirring your stumps? How goes Mary and the child? I am going *arter* the butcher, to get a bit of *summut* for Bet’s dinner.” A laundress from a two pair of stairs easement, calls out to her customer, with a belcher handkerchief round his neck, “What, Joey, I say, you are going to the fight. Well, I shall call for your shirt in the afternoon.” These are a few slight examples of English familiarity.

We will now return to our instructions respecting good manners.

If you meet a fine woman, instantly turn your eye-glass full in her face. The reason is obvious. If modest, you will throw her into the utmost confusion, which heightens her charms;

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Rules for Walking the Streets, &c.

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and, if the contrary, you know what game you have to pursue.

To gape into a dining-room or parlour, where a company is assembled, as you pass along the streets, shews a great proficiency in good-breeding.

Persons of rank and figure in society should dress according to the mode, viz. a black shag crop-round hat, turned over the left eye; whiskers from the tip of the ear to the corner of the mouth; a large belcher handkerchief in lieu of a muslin cravat, or a black silk handkerchief may be used occasionally, a groom coat, leather breeches, and jockey boots. This is what is termed *stylish*; and should be carefully observed, as well as any other alteration that may take place in those standards of fashion, *Messrs. Belcher, Gulley, the Ruffian, Game Chicken, &c.* It is true, this mode of dress may sometimes cause temporary inconveniences; as, for instance, a peer of the realm, thus apparelled, was lately passing through Fleet-Street, when he was accosted by a porter, at a bulk against St. Dunstan's Church, with a request that he would lend him a hand to help him up with his

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Rules for Walking the Streets, &c.

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load. But these trifles ought not to be attended to.

It is extremely pleasant when two friends are walking the streets, to discourse so loud as to be heard up to the garret windows; and by the extravagance of your gestures cause the passers by to loiter, stare, and consider whether you are in your perfect senses or not.

If you meet a friend who is in a hurry, and you have something particular to communicate, do not let him go till you have pulled off a button or two at least from his coat or waistcoat.

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Behaviour at the Table.

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## CHAP. II.

## BEHAVIOUR AT THE TABLE.

“I yesterday went to solicit the vote and interest of old Smoakjack, the chimney-sweeper. I found him and his family seated at a banquet of ox-cheek and bacon. I was pressed to eat, to be sure; so down I sat between his two eldest sons, as he called them, though they looked more like organized bags of soot than human beings. Well, I sat clear for some time, till one of the lads reaching his brother the bread across the table, blacked all the side of my coat, which, as ill-luck would have it, was cream-coloured. The father, enraged at his ill-manners, got up to strike the boy: the boy in endeavouring to escape threw me and his brother down; so that when I got up again, I was black enough to pass for one of the family.”

*Pillon.*

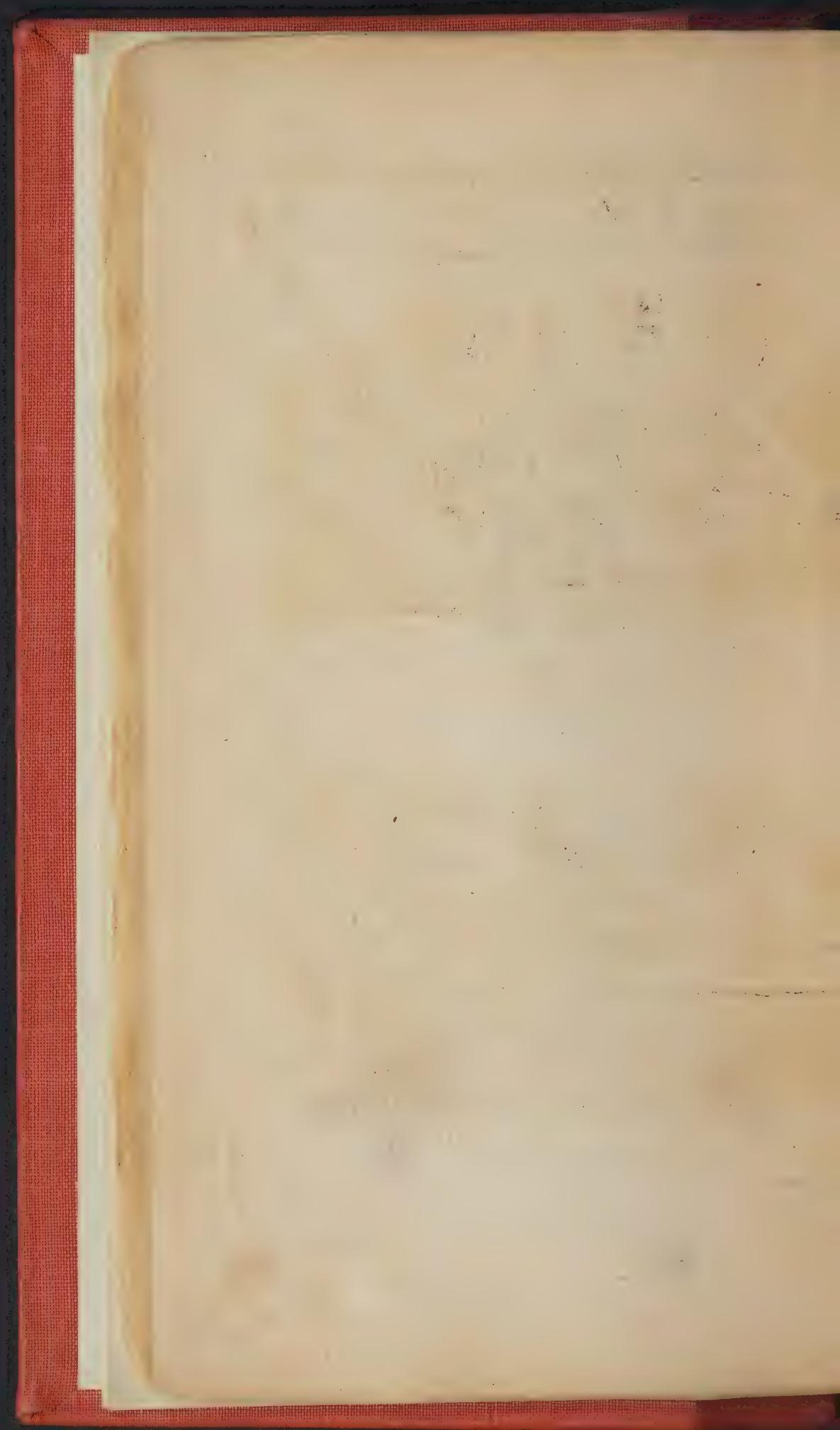
WHEN any choice dish is served up, to which you are particularly partial, be sure to let the company perceive it by some indication of the keenness of your appetite; as “Well, I declare I never saw any thing so tempting;” or if

Place your elbows on the table like a  
Church warden at a parish vestry



Cough and yawn over the Dishes.







Stretch your arms across the table to get at  
what best suits your appetite.



Loll on two chairs while making  
use of your toothpick.



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Behaviour at the Table.

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you prefer being silent, you may ogle it, like a hackney-writer peeping into a cook's shop.

If you have acquired a fortune by trade, and retired to your villa in the country, be sure to recollect your former jolly phrases, while presiding at the table, viz. "Come fall too, my lads and lasses ; two hands in a dish, and one in a purse ;—take the will for the deed ; but I hope there's enough. One man's meat is another man's poison. It's better to pay the butcher than the doctor," &c. These little sallies are very entertaining.

Be sure to place your elbows on the table, like a churchwarden in a parish vestry.

If there be servants in the room, keep up a conversation with them, as, "Ah, Tom, how do you do ? What ! have you left Mrs. Thingum-bob ? aye, aye, leave you alone to find out a good thing ; got a snug place here, I warrant you !" All this tends to shew you are not proud, but free and easy in your behaviour.

When you meet with a dish not exactly suited to your taste, stretch your arms across the table to get at one you like better, similar to a churchwarden at a parish dinner.

Don't pay any attention to cutting your meat

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Behaviour at the Table.

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into small pieces, but take good substantial mouthfuls ; making your cheeks stick out like full-blown bladders, or a barber's boy eating gingerbread.

Hang over your plate with your body so bent, that part of the meat, gravy, &c. may return back again into the plate from whence it came ; or, if you like it better, sit far enough from the table, so as to make the same deposit on your clothes. The latter method may be occasionally practised by way of variety.

Dip your meat into the salt-cellar ; or, at least, take out the salt with the point of the knife with which you have been eating. If the salt-spoon be just before you, that makes no difference.

Wiping your plate with a large piece of bread, so as to absorb the gravy, is very genteel and elegant. Also, to pour the gravy from the dish on your plate, looks very accomplished ; as you may soon be convinced, by attending some of the companies' feasts, on a Lord Mayor's day.

Be very nice and curious at table, to shew your good taste and breeding ; now and then observing (particularly if those dishes be on the

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Behaviour at the Table.

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table) “I can’t bear roast mutton ! A capon is very well, if it be tender : but I am sorry to say, not one in twenty prove so : now that before me, I’ll be bound for it, will make my words good.” Or else praise every thing indiscriminately, like a hungry poet at an eighteen-penny ordinary.

If you see a particular dainty, be sure to ask for it ; or, if you like it better, take it without asking ; or, should it be offered to you, take care to pick the best.

Some people very foolishly observe, that when carved for, it is but civil to take whatever is offered ! No such thing. Always make a difficulty, saying, you like some part better. It gives additional trouble, and of course shews the carver to better advantage.

To give any thing from your own plate to another to eat of, shews great good nature, and amiableness of disposition, particularly if on the point of a fork with which you have been picking your teeth, (bye the bye, a fork is an excellent substitute for a tooth-pick.)

Coughing, yawning, or sneezing over the dishes, is very agreeable.

Men and their wives, recently married,

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Behaviour at the Table.

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ogling, and making love to each other at table, shews warm and generous constitutions (though we are sorry to say, this matrimonial fondness is getting very much out of fashion.)

Let your children make as much noise as possible, particularly if strangers be present ; the more noise the merrier !

If you have favourite dogs or cats, let them be at large at dinner-time ; and keep them in such a state of voraciousness, that they may be ready to run away with the victuals from off your guests' plates.

When you are summoned from the drawing-room to the dining-room, rush all together, as the mob used, at the pit-door, to see Cooke, the celebrated actor. Then sit down promiscuously, no matter how, so that each gets opposite his favourite dish. This sometimes occasions inconvenience ; but that signifies nothing, provided you gain your point.

If you have an ancient mother or grandmother, or old maiden aunt, labouring under visible infirmities, make it a rule to let her preside at the head of the table.

If you have a party you wish to be very friendly to, heap their plates with viands, pile

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Behaviour at the Table.

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upon pile, similar to the tower of Babel ; and cram the victuals down the people's throats, like an oath administered in a hurry, on a crowded court-day. Don't mind their elegant observations of "Indeed, ma'am, I can't bear it: I shall be quite sick :" or, "By goles, cousin Thompson, we can't stand any more. Wife and I be stuffed up to our chins."

When you are drinking a glass of wine, roll your eyes about the room over the brim of the glass, like a felon, brought up by *Habeas Corpus*, to a judge's chamber.

After you have taken a large draught, bring forth a loud sigh, as if your breath was escaping from your body ; or rather like an apothecary's apprentice, when he comes on a pretended message to his master, in the midst of the church service, in a remote village.

It has become very allowable at all polite tables, to wash, gargle, and otherwise cleanse your mouth after meals. If you have any regard for genuine good manners, be sure to improve on this principle, and hawk, groan, cough, &c. in the water-glass, to any pitch of tone you may think most agreeable. N. B. No occasion to place your hand between your mouth and the

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Behaviour at the Table.

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receiver. If taking gooseberries, eat the pulp; and let the skins fall into the glass. It gives a transparent brilliancy very agreeable to the persons opposite to you.

If you be fond of music, and have occasion to use your handkerchief at the dessert (more especially if you indulge in snuff) trumpet your nostrils as loud as possible, to the overture to *Tekeli*, or any other popular composition.

Nothing has a finer effect, or shews your discernment in a more forcible manner, than when you have a stranger at your table, to address your wife with, “My dear, did you ever see such a likeness as that gentleman is to my cousin *Nicholas*?” If the stranger should be a young lady of amiable manners, and delicate ideas, let your helpmate open the battery of comparisons; first, by staring her out of countenance, and then exclaiming before the whole company, “Do you know, my dear, what I am thinking of?—I never saw any person bear such a resemblance of one to the other, as that young lady does to *Nancy Towers*, my late unfortunate house-maid, who was guilty of a *fox-paw*, with our journeyman, *Bill Thompson*.”

Humming a new tune, drumming with your

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Behaviour at the Table.

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feet, or knuckles, has a very lively effect, during the dessert. If you can contrive now and then to break a decanter or wine-glass, the more agreeable.

To loll on two chairs, while you are using your tooth-pick, has a very careless and elegant appearance.

Instruments for cracking nuts are ridiculous. Always make use of your teeth, aiding the operation, by placing your hands gracefully to your cheeks, at the same time distorting your countenance during the exertion.

Many more graces of the table might be enumerated; but what is here brought forward may be sufficient for a young beginner in the practice of good manners.

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Directions respecting Apparel, &c.

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## CHAP. III.

## DIRECTIONS RESPECTING APPAREL, &amp;c.

“He wears his faith but as the fashion of his hat,  
“It ever changes with the next block.”

*Shakspeare.*

**PROPRIETY** in respect to dress some ridiculously imagine is centered in a certain suitableness and agreement between the clothes and the person wearing them; as courtesy is the framing and adopting our actions to the satisfaction of other people; and if we desire to be exact, we must proportion them to our shape, our condition, and our age. No such thing. For instance, if you have a gouty, or bandy leg, wear a handsome silk stocking, and a shining buckle.

Should your hair happen to be grey, set it off to the best advantage with a smart riband.

If you be far advanced in years, wear a smart dashing waistcoat, unbuttoned, to shew that you are not yet past your boyish days. Though

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Directions respecting Apparel, &c.

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some people might think a flannel one more necessary ; you must not mind that.

A female with a withered neck, ought to display it in the most graceful manner possible, and be sure to wear a glittering necklace and ear-rings. Let her swoon even at the very name of a warm fur tippet, or a flannel petticoat. In short, gaudy grandmothers, and gay grandfathers, are always pleasing in the eyes of people endowed with true taste.

A little woman, with a large red shawl, has a pretty effect.

Some are called singular that cultivate a little elegant taste of their own. Suppose you take a fancy to wear a cocked hat, black bob wig, pompadour coat, green waistcoat, dirty leather breeches, black stockings, and square gilt buckles, what is that to any body ?

Some people indeed honor others according to the fashionable cut of their clothes ; therefore, you may, if you chuse it, indulge in the extreme of the mode. No matter if from the crown of your head to the sole of your foot, not an article is paid for, or even likely to be, the bath metal buttons in your shirt-sleeves excepted.

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Directions respecting Apparel, &c.

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But I would recommend a total disregard to dress ; let slovenliness be the order of the day ; your stockings ungartered, shoes untied, hair uncombed, and a thousand other pleasing varieties. But take care you extend to nothing further than is just absolutely necessary, such as guarding yourself against the inclemency of the weather, &c.

If you be invited to dine with a friend, go in linen as black as a printer's devil. It shews a noble independence, and that you go more to satisfy yourself than any other person.

If you be necessitated to appear in that manner, so much the better. Then preach up the vanity of finery, and foppish effeminacy. There is nothing like making a virtue of necessity.

Singularity on one hand, and profusion on the other, ought always to be carefully observed.

Suppose by your oddities you are stared at, like the sign of the crocodile in Piccadilly ; what does that signify ? It adds to your notoriety. What would Martin Van Buchell have done if it had not been for his long beard and spotted poney?—besides many others that might be enumerated ?

Never mind proportioning your clothes to

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Directions respecting Apparel, &c.

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your body ; that is the last thing that should be thought of. Some persons think, that it is highly necessary to people wishing to appear neat and becoming. But, alas ! they little know the *beau monde*. What is so becoming as a loose coat, like a sack, with a bump on each shoulder ; a waistcoat, three inches long ; and breeches from the ankles to the chin ; with hussar boots like water buckets for a fire engine. **N. B.** Be sure to button your coat and waistcoat awry : it causes people to squint ; upon which you have a fine opportunity of becoming very quizzical !

If you have a remarkable pale face, make it still paler by wearing a large quantity of powder, till you resemble the effigy of a white lion, at a village alehouse, or a loaf of double-refined sugar.

As to the little nonsensical refinements respecting keeping your hands, face, teeth, nails, &c. perfectly clean, according to the obsolete rules of Lord Chesterfield ; what are such little niceties compared to the pleasures of being free and easy both in your apparel and person ?

An eminent author sensibly observed, —

“ A plague on the prejudice rais’d against dirt,  
“ That obliges a man to put on a clean shirt.”

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Short Directions respecting Behaviour at the Theatres.

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*CH. 21 P. IV.*

SHORT DIRECTIONS RESPECTING BEHAVIOUR AT  
THE THEATRES.

“I'll to the well-trod stage anon!”

*Allegro.*

THE old-fashioned notions of our forefathers, when they visited the theatres, was to go with a determination to hear and see, if possible. This you must particularly avoid; if you pay your dollar, and have an opportunity to lounge in the lobby, and can now and then get a peep at the stage, it is quite sufficient.

Provided you chuse to enter a box, never think of coming in till a very interesting scene has taken place. Then slam to the door. Let fall the bench with as much noise as possible, and accommodate the spectators with any other agreeable variety you can devise.

Where you observe any modest women assembled in a box, with only one protector,

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Short Directions respecting Behaviour at the Theatres.

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bring in a friend or two, and a few ladies of a certain description: and make as much noise, and be as troublesome as possible. N. B. Perhaps you may be caned or kicked for your impertinence. But a little practice will make that easy, and you will come to consider it as a thing of course.

In case of a challenge, always carry your card in your pocket. N. B. No occasion to be particular about the direction.

Never omit the irresistible graces of the opera hat, quizzing glass, and other little elegant appendages.

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Rules for Conversation.

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## CHAP. V.

## RULES FOR CONVERSATION.

“His reasons are like two grains of wheat hid in a bushel  
“of chaff. You may search a whole day ’ere you find them :  
“and when you have found them they are not worth the  
“search.”

*Shakspeare.*

IT is said that the emptiest vessels make the greatest noise. Don’t let that deter you from making a free exercise of your lungs. It is conducive to your health. Therefore, in every conversation, however trivial it may be, be sure to bawl as loud as possible.

Never think about what you are discoursing upon ; but blunder out any thing, and put a good face on the matter ; and you are sure to succeed.

Modesty and diffidence should be totally disregarded in polite company—conceit and assurance will be sure to come off conquerors. The former hinders you from saying what you ought

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Rules for Conversation.

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on any subject: and the latter makes you say a great deal more. Then surely the preference should be given to the latter.

There are persons who have not any, or at least, very little, notion of the topic in discussion, and who generally imagine, that he who talks the least on the subject, is the weaker party. Therefore, vociferate as loud and fast as possible; by these means, you will be thought to have the better of the argument by the generality of your hearers. Noise and assurance will always carry you through the circle of arts and sciences, though you know no more of them than a plough-boy who has received a *liberal* education at a village charity-school.

If you be a very modest man, always select a proper person for your second in conversation. Let him be a proud, haughty character, impatient of being contradicted, and incapable of being confuted. He must always think himself right in every thing, and be as loud and voluble as possible. He must laugh as hearty as a barber at a christening, and be all along congratulating himself on his imaginary triumphs. Let one modest man of good sense have but one such to stand by him; and there will be

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Rules for Conversation.

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no doubt of a victory over half a hundred of the most sensible but bashful creatures in the universe.

Some think a good stock of attentive reading is very necessary to carry on an interesting conversation. Little do they know of the matter. Lugging in a horse, or a boxing match in the present times, will do more than all your Homers, Virgils, Miltos, or Popes, combined together; as for instance, “D—n me, Jack, what a mare! Such a one for going! Did you ever see her? A beauty! Intend to match her against Harry’s famous black poney, D——d dear horse-flesh is to be sure: but we must not mind that. Bye the bye, do you know Tom has sold his grey hunter? don’t you think he was a queer flat for so doing? does not know a good thing when he has it. Oh, such a race at Brighton! Was you there? Never saw any thing like it since I have had the honour of being on the turf! Neck to neck all the way! D——d good jockey Ned is to be sure; just nicked it, and that was all; nothing like bottom and good training. Well thought of, have you seen Gully or the Chicken lately? D——d fine fellows! But come, we must not lose sight of the Ruffian.

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Rules for Conversation.

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How finely that fellow sets-to!—such sharp hits!—one, two, three, and away! The true Belcher school to a hair. Come I'll drink all their good healths, not forgetting Jemmy from town."

This sort of conversation, larded with well-selected oaths, and knowing observations, will pass current, when a sensible modest orator will be no more attended to than a snuffling clergyman, preaching to a drowsy congregation on a frosty morning.

Always whisper what you call secrets in company, whether you are in possession of any or not. It shews the openness of your disposition.

Boast of favours you may perhaps have received; but by no means forget those you have never had.

If you have the tinkling of rhyme in your pericranium, be sure to tune out your poetical productions to every one you meet, even though it should be a merchant on change, or an attorney at law, in a hurry from Court. In short, under every circumstance, force your company to attend to the harmony of your numbers.

Story-telling is a fine accomplishment when properly managed. In the first place be well

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Rules for Conversation.

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initiated in Joe Miller : the older the jokes, and the oftener you repeat them, the more entertaining. You may make a little variation occasionally, by introducing a few marvellous adventures of your own ; no matter how improbable. There is nothing more noble and honourable than shooting with a long bow.

When you mean to introduce an interesting story, make out a kind of preface about an hour's length, by way of impressing on your hearers the pleasure they are about to receive. If they should be disappointed, that is not your fault. You did your best : and so much time has been past away, at least, to your own satisfaction.

Introduce as many episodes and digressions in your narrative as you can possibly contrive to bring in.

If you mean to tell a jest, and the point is tolerably good, take care you do not come to it too soon. The surprize will be thus greatly enhanced.

Make age the standard of your sense, whether you ever had any or not ; fixing upon one settled principle, that five and twenty must always be wrong, and threescore must always be right.

## Rules for Conversation.

Loud laughter at you don't know what, is a fine auxiliary in company. When your stock of reason is exhausted, this expedient never fails to carry down all before you.

If you should be in company with some jolly fellows, at a tavern, where, according to Cowper, they are,—

—“All loud alike,  
“All learned, and all drunk.”

be sure to begin punning and quibbling on some point of scripture, or some obsolete word, in the English language, so that the waiter may be sent half round the parish to borrow a bible or dictionary, to settle the dispute. N. B. If you know either is in the house the joke is lost ; but that is so seldom the case, that you are very safe in making the experiment.

To be very absent when in conversation, shews great politeness. If you can contrive to defer giving an answer to a plain question till the next day, it enhances the value of the obligation. Some people are naturally forgetful, and make very amusing companions. An example occurred a few months since, of a gen-

## Rules for Conversation.

tleman meeting with a mad author, at an inn in the country, who soon introduced himself by a display of the various MSS. with which he had a small trunk tolerably well stocked. After amusing the gentleman with a tragedy, an after-piece, various poems, &c. from which he expected to clear two thousand dollars, he observed that he was greatly in want of an amanuensis, as, the very night before, he actually in that room composed in his mind upwards of nine stanzas of the best songs ever produced in this country, and which would have commanded three hundred dollars at least;—“And do you know, sir, for want of a person to write down my ideas, I totally forgot the whole by the time I awoke in the morning?” “A distressing circumstance to be sure; but did you not recollect any part of it?” “Not a single syllable, sir, ‘pon honour! Ah, my dear sir, I see you pity me. Now if you will have the goodness to assist me, I will allow you twelve shillings a week. We will have a double-bedded room, so that you may always be ready at a moment’s call; a table between our places of repose, with a nice rushlight, hour glass, pens, ink, and paper, and a bottle of the best cordial

## Rules for Conversation.

gin in the cupboard. What do you say, my friend? will you accept my terms? you may, perhaps, never again meet with such an opportunity." The gentleman of course rejected the offer, to the great disappointment of the poet. Mr. Beresford in all his catalogue of human miseries, could not possibly select one worse than being an amanuensis to a mad author!

Enter boldly, and without ceremony, into a room where two or more people are in private conversation: and begin whistling some new tune, with your back to the fire. This has a fine effect; and shews the ease and carelessness of your manners to great advantage.

On the other hand, if you be in company with a few friends, and some popular character should enter, duck down your heads like a jury at an assize bar, to whisper his name, and tell all you know about him.

It shews excellent good manners to converse in a language which the greater part of the company do not understand. Therefore, young clergymen, just escaped from a close room at college, an established schoolmaster, a learned apothecary, or a lawyer commencing business, are always esteemed the best company; because

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Rules for Conversation.

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they are continually throwing out scraps of Latin and shreds of Greek, to the great edification of all present.

When a person is in the middle of a story, yawn, and ask him what was the beginning of it; similar to one who asks what's trumps when the game is half over.

When a person is in the midst of an interesting relation, discover great impatience by various signs and tokens, to shew you are prepared for a contradiction.

In relating a story be sure to embellish it with, So said I, and said he to me; and I said to him again; and so said she, you take me right; you are up I see to what I mean; *that there* fellow understands a thing or two; but *this here* matter is neither here nor there; the worserer the betterer, in some of these cases, in *that there* sort of manner, &c.

Frequenting debating societies gives ample scope for entertaining your friends in private companies. A continual buzz about polities displays your *amor patrice*. Do not be diffident, notwithstanding you scarcely know any thing of the matter. The names of a few great and illustrious speakers, properly introduced, will

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Rules for Conversation.

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carry you through. Be sure to let your speech at least take up an hour; and let it be a standing rule not to suffer any person to make a reply. If the hearers should be inclined to doze, that has nothing to do with your eloquence.

One rude fellow, at a debating society, was very properly called to order. In a similar instance, of a long oration, a gentleman sleeping near the orator, gave repeated sonoriferous notes through his nasal organs, seeming very unwilling to be disturbed, when the president wisely observed, "Sir, I do not call you to order for snoring yourself; but for disturbing other gentlemen who seem inclined to sleep also on this interesting occasion."

To fall fast asleep in the midst of a conversation is a very elegant accomplishment, and very easily acquired, by a resolution not to pay the smallest attention to what is passing, and composing yourself in an easy situation. If you wear a wig, and by a gracious nod you can contrive to throw part of it over the left eye, it has a very graceful appearance. But of one thing be particularly careful, never be brought to own but that your eyes were only closed, and that you heard and understood every thing that

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Rules for Conversation.

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passed. This you must determinately insist on; though, at the same time you have out-snored an orthodox church-warden at a methodist meeting.

Reservedness is by some esteemed a virtue. You are to pay no regard to what such people in their great wisdom think proper to judge on the occasion. Judge for yourself: and you'll find by the mere dint of assurance, and loud discourse, about any thing that strikes your fertile imagination, that you will be considered as a very useful, acceptable, and communicative gentleman.

It is very prudent to let another at first sight, read your mind by your conversation, though there may be discontent, vice, or infirmity, at the bottom.

Be over bold, and rushing into discourse on every occasion, like a stock-broker, in the alley. Men's judgments ought to be as various as their faces. To deny whatever is universally believed, is, at least, to have singularity in opinion as well as in fashion. You are no more to endure a rival in thinking than a rival in your amours.

If you be of a martial disposition, send your

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Rules for Conversation.

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brains charged with expeditions never thought of before. Be bold enough to attack even demonstration itself.

Idolize wit, though you be ignorant of its definition ; and, like a drayman on the wharf, prove it by clashing contradictions.

If you be a sordid, ill-bred man, and really conscious of your ignorance and inability to mix with men of sense, boldly relinquish their company : similar to ladies of a certain description, according to the opera refinement (more easily conceived than expressed) who discharge their servant maids, because they are possessed of too much modesty.

If you wish to display your talent in disputation, and make yourself truly agreeable to your hearers, observe the following golden rules :—Controvert known truths ; and defend the most absurd falsehoods. In short, let either side of the argument be indifferent to you, so that you do but dispute.

If you prefer a small portion of modesty on the occasion, take the following rule : Do not directly contradict the person with whom you are in conversation ; but with a gentlemanly kind of scepticism, doubt every thing he says ;

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Rules for Conversation.

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and put him to the test of proving the truth of his assertion.

If you have scarcely three grains of sense, or cannot read three lines without spelling, or even write your name intelligibly, pluck up, have courage, and observe the following advice, and you will surely succeed: Have the affectation of being witty; though you know you are naturally dull. Affect wisdom; though you know yourself to be bordering on a fool. Endeavour to shine; though you should prove insipid. Make up your own mind that you please; though every other person may think you disagreeable.

If you have just Latin enough to read an elegy in Ovid, be perpetually praising the majestic beauty of Virgil, the happy boldness of Horace, the terseness of Tacitus, and the elegant brevity of Sallust; though in all probability you cannot construe a single page in either.

The use of quaint phrases, however ridiculous or obsolete, ought particularly to be attended to, such as “That sort of thing; go it, my dansey; that’s your sort; there she goes; keep moving; what’s to pay? I owe you one; that accounts for it; it was all owing to the

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Rules for Conversation.

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comet ; push on, that's the dandy ; what will Mrs. Grundy say to it ? &c. &c."

If you should be a wholesale dealer, and have amassed a large fortune, as an usurer, a discounter, a stock-broker, a possessor of a considerable slice of bank-stock ; in fact, no matter what, so that you be rich. In these cases always make it a rule to detest nothing so much as genius and wit ; and look upon learning, (because past your comprehension) as useless and insignificant.

If a man, eminent for talent, should be praised in your company, immediately enquire how much he is worth.

If you be a monied man, as above, attach yourself only to men of worth (that is, being worth so many pounds, shillings, pence, and farthings.) Always lard your conversation with, I had the story from a man worth a vast sum of money ; and I am sure it *must* be true. If he be mentioned as a clever sensible man, be sure to observe, Bless you, to be sure he is. I know from my *sartain* knowledge, that he has upwards of thirty thousand dollars in the stocks.

If a plain honest man should chance to fall in your company, unless he should answer your

## Rules for Conversation.

idea of a man of worth, have nothing to say to him. Do all this, though many that attempt it, are so worthless, that when the arch-tempter gives the word for their departure, they go off, not worth the charge of a passing bell to toll them to his territories.

Never put a sentinel on your tongue. Nature has made it for motion. When you are boasting of your amours, never consider that a woman's honour, like her sex, is so soft-complexioned, that every breath sullies its lustre, and the slightest slander dashes it in pieces. But reflection you are not to attend to. As scandal and defamation are practised by so many of the higher orders of society, you are fully justified.

If you wish to have a true specimen of the confusion of tongues, go into some well-frequented tavern, where the waiters are bawling out their different orders, on one part, others again bellowing them out at the bar ; the boys attending on them breaking the glasses. At one end of the room, a company settling the poor rates. At another, a large building is going forward. Some are seriously employed in settling the national debt ; others again bombarding a town with tobacco pipes, and pieces of cork ;

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Rules for Conversation.

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others taking Bonaparte by main force, and bringing him prisoner over a shillingsworth of brandy and water. Farther on are a party describing the impracticability of an invasion, making it perfectly clear to the meanest capacity, by some drops of porter spilt on the table. In short, they are divided into so many separate cabals, that they appear like the old print of the city train bands, at a captain's dinner, where five or six are appointed to one bottle of wine.

It shews great perseverance for one person to harangue or preach to a company a whole night without any call or ordination to the office.

When you indulge in this habit, be sure to let your hands and arms assist your tongue at every marked period. Pay no regard to giving a back-handed blow to those near you, every two or three minutes. It revives their attention to the topic on which you are giving your liberal sentiments. Take particular care to place yourself near some person of weak nerves and tender constitution. It may give a fillip to nature, and save him the expense of a physician. Some people say that orators of this description

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Rules for Conversation.

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dealing forth blows from right to left indiscriminately, ought to be subject to having the servants called in with a strong cord, to bind their hands and arms over to a strict observance of the peace.

If you be given to indulge in certain little flights of fancy, which you mean to pass on your hearers as truisms, don't mind about verbosity ; but be particularly careful that you have a good memory ; for there are many examples of persons given to this habit, who, for want of necessary recollection, have run themselves so far beyond all possibility of retreat, by conviction being drawn from their own lips, that they have appeared as silly as a goose fastened to a hedge stake.

Indeed this system of the marvellous has become so common, that it has gradually crept into the conversations of nearly all orders of society, from the lowest to the highest ; so much so, that it is really wonderful the higher orders do not leave it off, as it is in full practice with every common plebeian.

If you have an ill-scented breath, place your face close to the person with whom you are

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Rules for Conversation.

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conversing ; particularly so if the wind should happen to be in your favour.

If you wish to appear of consequence in society, boast of your birth, wealth, education, &c. and magnify the good qualities of your relatives as much as possible, particularly the beauty and amiableness of your wife, the sensibility of your children, and the wonderful achievements performed by your ancestors.

Great care should be taken to speak as imperiously as possible to your company, giving the word of command as loud as a captain of a volunteer regiment. You may vary the phrases a little, if you please ; but be sure not to lose the smallest portion of your consequence.

When you are in company with a person of quality, be sure to keep bowing and cringing at every word he utters : it shews your attention and good-breeding. In this respect you should always have in recollection the observation of Sir Pertinax Macsyphant, in Macklin's excellent comedy of the "Man of the World," who declares,—

"He could never stand upright in a great man's presence in aw his life."

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Rules for Conversation.

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If you think it necessary to compliment a person, put conciseness out of the question; but deliver a speech as long as a nobleman's chaplain, in a prolix discourse after dinner, at his mansion in the country.

Interlard your conversation with well chosen oaths, or what may be termed fashionable swearing. When properly managed it displays a great ingenuity, and is always an excellent substitute for wit and talent: besides your word is the more regarded when your conversation is upon oath. If you swear before gentlemen who are great adepts in the art, vary your mode as much as possible. Think of something new; wisely recollecting, with Acres, in the *Rivals*, that—

“Damns have had their day.”

If you be a man of fortune, mixed with a tolerable portion of assumed consequence, and, at the same time, wishing to display your wit, invite some dependent to dine with you; no matter what his talents may be, so that he be poor, and in some degree at your command. In that case play upon him like a musical in-

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Rules for Conversation.

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strument. During the time he is partaking of your bounty, should he have spirit to retort, convince him by some haughty expressive look, of the humble situation in which he is placed: giving tolerable broad hints, that if he does not put up with the display of your infinite humour, he shall not be again invited to the honours of your table.

It would appear vulgar to pay attention to the old worn-out observations of “ Some persons being born to no other estate than that which is bestowed by charity, in order that they may practice patience; and that others again are born to abundance, that they may exercise charity; so that the virtue of one stands indebted to the misery of the other; and the giver is no less obliged than the receiver.” These vague ideas are become so much out of fashion, by the generality of those who study the vocabulary of good-breeding, that if you wish to be a man of the world, I would advise you not to give them the smallest attention.

If a person for whom you bear any common respect hesitate in conversation, and say “ I want a—a—a—,” interrupt him, with “ I know, my good fellow, what you were going to say,”

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Rules for Conversation.

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though at the same time you know nothing at all about it.

It shews great civility and attention, to point blank contradict another when he labours under a momentary mistake.

It is very amusing to perplex any one by reviving some affair that does not altogether appear to his advantage ; as for instance, entering into a long history of crim. con. to a man who has recently parted with his wife, or a dissertation on the striking of a docket to a man who was announced a bankrupt in the last week's gazette.

To tell your dreams and other whimsies of your brain, has a delightful effect in company, and comes with particular grace from old maiden aunts or cousins.

In the same way, long histories of battles, murders, executions, &c. &c. which happened in your remembrance, gives an agreeable variety to conversation.

If you should be required to sing in a convivial party, the good old ditties of Chevy-Chace, and Robin Hood, the Babes in the wood, or Death and the Lady, will serve admirably to fill up time.

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Rules for Conversation.

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**In all conversations, studiously avoid brevity. If you have a good thing to say, the more you make of it the better. Never mind people's yawning. They encourage that practice through mere envy.**

**Follow these simple rules, and you cannot fail making yourself agreeable in every enlightened society.**

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Rules to be observed at Cards in private Families.

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CHAP. VI.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED AT CARDS IN PRIVATE FAMILIES.

"Behold, four Kings in majesty rever'd,  
"With hoary whiskers and a fork'y beard ;  
"And four fair Queens, whose hands sustain a flow'r,  
"Th' expressive emblem of their softer pow'r ;  
"Four Knaves in garbs succinct, a trusty band ;  
"Caps on their heads, and halberts in their hand ;  
"And party-colour'd troops, a shining train,  
"Drawn forth to combat on the velvet plain."

*Rape of the Lock.*

IF it should so happen that your friend asks you to take a hand at cards, deny it in a peremptory manner. Pretend to ten thousand businesses you have to transact. But after you once make a sitting, keep him up at least till five the next morning, for your own amusement. Shew by various signs and tokens your impatience to win like a master barber playing at cribbage with his journeyman.

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Rules to be observed at Cards in private Families.

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Use as many bye-words as possible during your play, as, “ There it is, the curse of Scotland. Plague take that nine of diamonds ; it is always getting into my hand. *Die a maid* again. That’s the barber. One for his nob,” on turning up a jack at all-fours. “ No luck under a deuce. Bad luck now the better next time. I’ve a hand like a fist. It is a sign of matrimony when the king and queen come together. Two heads are better than one. It is better to be born fortunate than rich. The king and the knave together ; that bodes no good.” These expressions are very entertaining ; and serve to pass away a few hours very agreeably.

If you be playing at all-fours, don’t regard the counting cards, but make your scores with chalk : and rub them out as occasion may require, by moistening the end of your finger.

If any difference arises at play, be as obstinate as possible ; and by no means submit to another person’s judgment, though you know you are in the wrong. Let your passion get up in the same degree that you are contradicted, till you get as warm as a Welch footman, when he is told that he is no gentleman.

Giggling and talking to standers-by, with other

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Rules to be observed at Cards in private Families.

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necessary interruptions, should be particularly attended to, as it is so like a company of country cousins playing at WHISK, in an obscure village, in the christmas holidays.

Demand the stakes that you win with the eagerness of a young barrister receiving a fee from a necessitous attorney when delivering him a brief.

If any one through forgetfulness has omitted putting down his stake, bawl out like the master of a cook's shop, when a suspicious customer is leaving the house, "Has that gentleman paid?"

When you lose, never pay before you are asked for it. It is quite time enough: and then do it with reluctance, so as to plainly shew you would much rather keep it in your pocket.

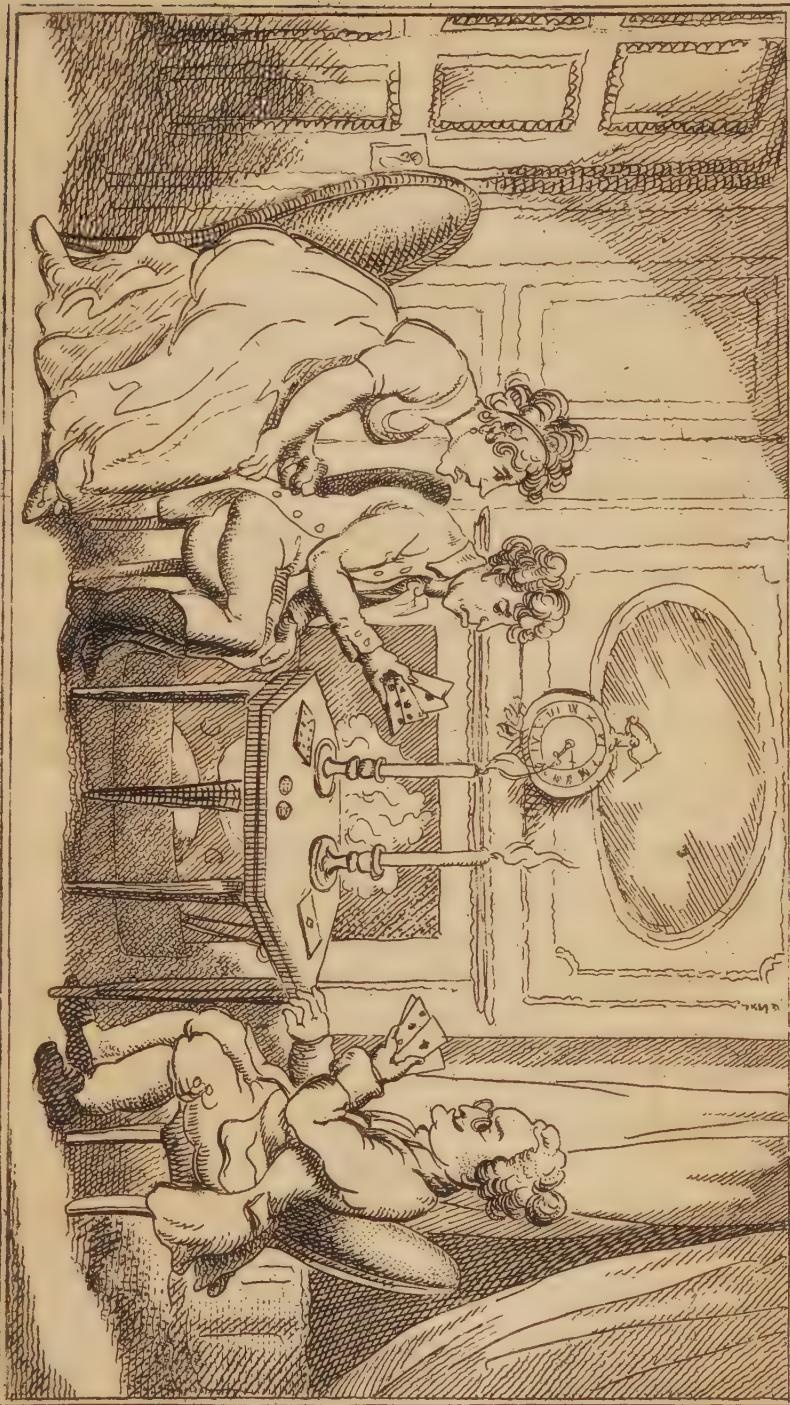
On the other hand, if you win, dart on the deposit, like a rattle-snake on a tame rabbit.

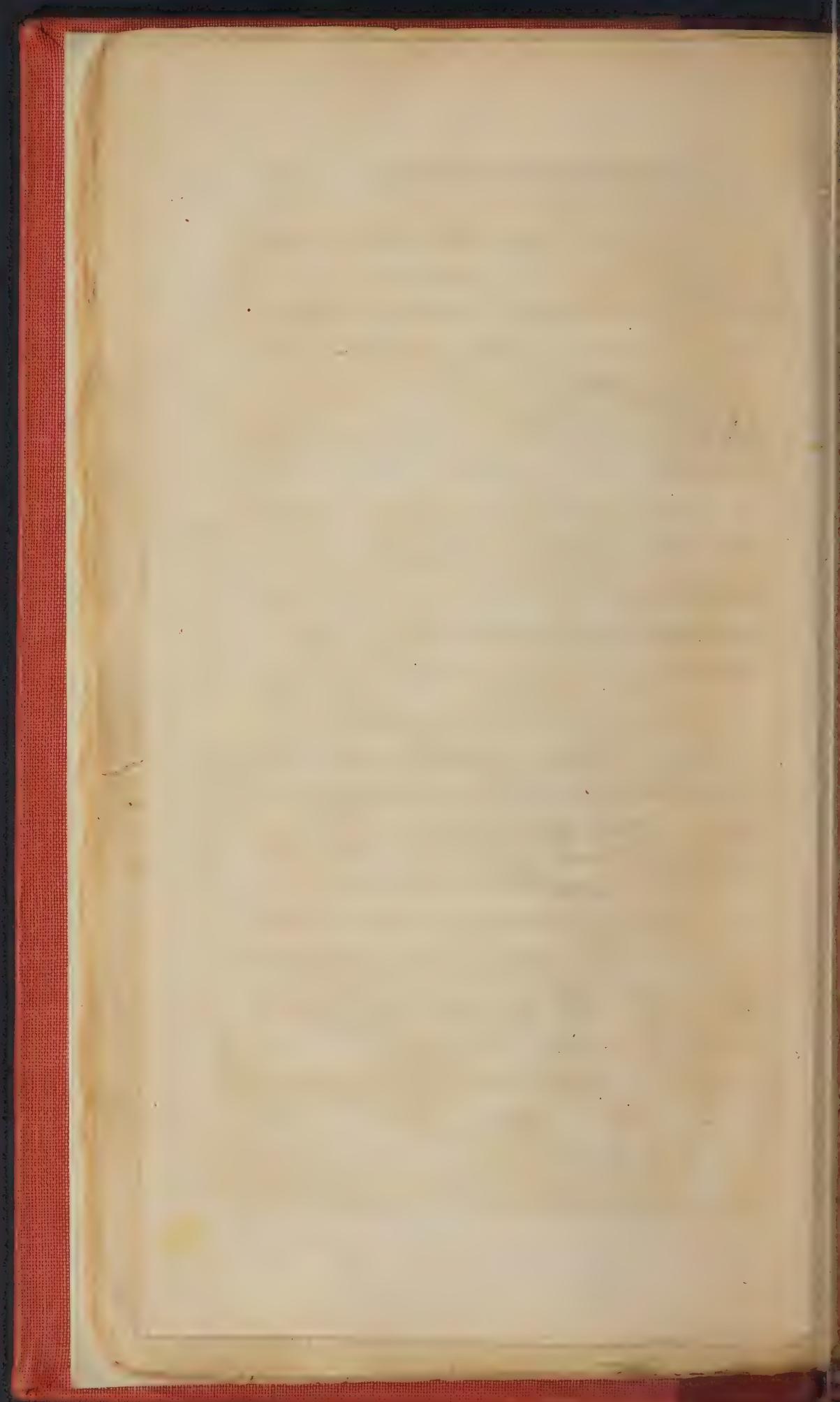
If it happen that the person you are playing with shews any symptoms of discontent at his losses, in order to give him a fair chance to recover himself, sit game after game, till a voyage might be made to and from the Cape of Good Hope!

It has a very good effect for a wife to look

How to look over your Husband's hand of Cards, and find fault with him for losing.

Par 40





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Rules to be observed at Cards in private Families.

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over her husband's hand, while he is playing ; at the same time, shewing evident marks of anger and discontent if he lose.

If a person be passionate at play, endeavour to provoke him by every means in your power. It often causes great entertainment to the persons present.

It shews excellent good breeding, if you be a mere looker-on, to run about the room, viewing people's cards ; peeping here and there with incessant curiosity ; at the same time dropping hints about what each contains. This, if well-managed, has a very interesting effect.

If you be a considerable loser, pay no regard to what is ridiculously called the rules of decency and good-manners : but boldly let fly a volley of oaths and expressions of anger at your ill-success. "Did you ever see such d—d luck ?—How much, I wonder, have I lost ?—I begin to think all is not quite fair : but I'll be d—d if I don't find it out. There again, curse that Queen of Spades ; but its always my luck. I am firmly persuaded that if I had been brought up a hatter, men would have been made without heads on purpose to vex me !"

Insult upon success, and fret over your los-

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Rules to be observed at Cards in private Families.

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ses. In short, shew a passionate unevenness of disposition, in lieu of the plain formality of equanimity of temper.

If you be a person of figure, and enabled to give splendid balls and routes, or turn your house into a temporary theatre for the benefit of an Italian singer or musician, contrive to engage a few of the gentlemen vulgarly termed black-legs, to mix with your card parties, under the feigned titles of barons, counts, marquises, &c. No matter how your guests are plundered, so that there be a good understanding between you and the plunderers.

If you be in a more humble line, contrive to go what is vulgarly called snacks, with your servants, in any gratuity allowed them by the company.

At all events, contrive to be a gainer by your liberality: and there is no doubt but in time you will arrive to be one of the first leaders of the *haut ton*!

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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## CHAP. VII.

## GENERAL RULES FOR GOOD BREEDING, ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS.

"The Graces! the Graces! the Graces!"

*Chesterfield.*

IF a person ask a favour of you, tire him out with continual puts-off and disappointments. Torture him between hope and fear. Keep him in suspense as long as possible, not letting him know what he has to trust to. It is an old observation, that when fortune is unkind, it is a satisfaction to know how far she can be troublesome; and that a man is in some respect happy who knows the extent of his miseries. Keep these remarks in your minds, and act directly opposite; and you will be sure to succeed.

There is an excellent way of putting off a tradesman, by a true man of fashion. Drawl out your words indistinctly; and receive him

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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lolling on your couch, picking your teeth, and dangling your watch chain. "So Mr. A—a, you have brought your bill, I see. Very well; I like punctuality. You may lay it on the table, Mr. A—a; and I say, Mr. A—a, you may call this day fortnight; and then I may probably inform you, Mr. A—a when you may call again."

Stare a plain honest shop-keeper out of countenance, if he happen to be in a coffee-house you frequent, letting him fully feel his insignificance in presuming to mix with the higher orders of society, who ought very properly to be kept distinct and separate from every other class whatever.

It is very becoming to break out into a violent fit of laughter, on the most trifling occasion, forming your mouth into a grin, like the lion's head on a brass knocker; and more so to be continually simpering at every thing, like a country milk-maid at a fair.

If you have the faculty of singing, playing on any instrument, or a talent for any other pleasing amusement, do not hide your light under a bushel; but boldly publish to the company what a clever person you are. If you wait with pa-

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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tience till your qualifications are discovered, you may, perhaps, wait long enough, and at last not have an opportunity of displaying your incomparable abilities.

Entirely do away that foolish modest diffidence, which, at best, can only make you agreeable to that tame-spirited class of the community, called persons of discretion.

A great deal is to be done by the exercise of flattery, properly managed. Make yourself a slave to ceremony. Heap your civilities, pile upon pile. Write love verses on an elderly lady, with one eye ; a panegyric on the wonderful abilities of an infant, three months old ; an ode to a favourite lap-dog ; stanzas to a canary-bird ; and a poetical compliment to the black tom cat.

Fall in raptures at the elegance of a punch bowl if you wish to have it filled. Give a hint of the fine flavour of the wine you partook of at your last visit, if you wish to have another bottle. Be particularly eloquent on the elegant manner of setting out the table, if you wish to have an invitation the next day to dinner. In fact, observe the same rules on almost every oc-

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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casion, and you will soon find the advantage of flattery.

It becomes familiar by practice : and of the persons on whom it is bestowed, it is ninety-nine chances to one, that they never become palled by the administration of an over-charged dose of well-timed compliments.

A bashful man is seldom his own master. He is fearful of making use of his own judgment. He is sure to be over-awed by the boldness and impudence of others. Therefore, if you have any regard for your consequence in polite society, be careful to study the latter excellent qualifications.

If the town be silly enough to follow the fashion of some fool, or coxcomb, who happens to be born to a fortune and title, don't you be behind-hand with the rest ; but imitate him in every folly ; so that at last you may probably arrive at the honour of being termed his **double**, by the *beau monde*.

If you be entrusted with a secret, do not be over-delicate about disclosing it to some particular friend, desiring him, on his honour, not to say a word about the matter to any one. He will, in all probability, entrust his particular

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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friend with the whole story, in the like manner. By this means you may get rid of a troublesome companion, viz. a secret, particularly a family secret, with very little trouble to yourself ; and, at the same time, keeping up your character with the first friend who entrusted you ; for, if you contrive it well, he cannot say it was you that spread the story, as he may be somewhat conscious of giving it publicity by having mentioned it in the same manner he had to you, to some other very particular friends.

As to secrecy, take it in general, it is but mere nonsense at the best, and totally exploded by all dashing fashionable characters. "Observe justice in all your dealings ; let your word be your bond," &c. might do very well about two or three centuries ago. But now, thanks to fashionable manners ! such old, stiff, worn-out maxims are nearly exploded : and secrecy is merely confined to pawn-brokers, and the keepers of brothels ; not from any particular virtue, but as it forms part of the trade resulting from legal obligation.

Let your maxim be similar to that of some worn-out old bachelor, of a country village.

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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Run about scenting of scandal, like an experienced hound, scenting game. Be sure to turn this game to advantage, by divulging every thing you know, and much more that you do not know.

Remarkable traits of good manners may be practised to advantage, in a well-frequented coffee-house: for instance, get possession of a news-paper, elevate your eye-glass from your button-hole; and keep it in that state at least two hours, or more, if you like it; reading, or at least pretending to read, with the same velocity that the sun goes over a dial. The best rule is to continue this till every other person is quite tired out by waiting for the paper, when in your good manners you shall be pleased to have done with it. Don't be disturbed though they even crowd around you like a constable and his assistants about a country justice of the peace, when he is reading a vagrant's pass to his parish. Even when you think proper to resign it, do it with as great reluctance as a miserly trustee would a ward's portion.

It is better still to make a general monopoly of all the papers in the room; holding two to-

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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gether ; sitting on others ; and placing your elbows on the remainder.

In noticing coffee-houses, it is very proper to mention a procedure, which is beginning to be very popular amongst spirited young men of fashion. If you happen to be a hackney clerk, or an apprentice to a linen draper, it will be just the same. The present age makes no difference. Muster eight or ten at least, and burst into a coffee room, talking as loud as possible, no matter what nonsense. Common understanding is not to be expected. Take the place as it were by storm. Crowd round the fire. Tread on the feet of the waiters. Overturn a few glasses, by throwing your arms and stick about, according to the true Bond-street taste. Brush in a body into the first box you see, no matter where. If you throw down a respectable old gentleman, or two, perusing the daily journals, so much the merrier. Once seated, proceed in your interesting vociferous discourse, till you have driven every sensible person from the room. N. B. If you should get a kicking or caning now and then, for what the quizzes call impertinence, do not let that deter you from perseverance. They are either of them the

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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best method to establish your notoriety in that class in which you wish to appear as a conspicuous luminary.

Peeping over a person's shoulder while he is reading, writing, or perusing letters, or papers, that may be scattered about his table, shews a great knowledge of politeness, and ought particularly to be encouraged, if you wish to rise in the world by the exercise of your good manners.

If you be in a lodging-house, it shews excellent good-breeding to be continually stamping up and down stairs, like an under-writer at Lloyd's Coffee-House: the more people you disturb, the better. It is shameful for any person to sit quiet, amusing himself with reading and such trifling nonsense, when you know yourself to be a man of such wonderful business and activity.

If you reside in an upper story, entertain those beneath with now and then a favourite hornpipe, jumping over chairs, &c. If a philosopher be studying below, and you be fond of fencing, let your master give you instructions in the art at least three or four times a day. An occasional country dance amongst your

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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friends, over the head of an old maid in a high fever, may be practised with great success. When you are in want of a little amusement, whistle and sing songs with a bad voice, about the house every hour in the day and in the night; also when you are not inclined to repose, the manual exercise, with a good heavy musquet; and now and then a sharp tattoo, on a well-braced drum, will serve very well to make up a variety in your amusements for the benefit of your neighbour. If you keep a dog, don't submit to let the poor animal be locked up, but let him have the full range of the house. The more dirt he makes the better. But above all, do not forget a few tunes on a cracked violin, or broken flute. If you be just beginning to play, the more your genius and perseverance will be admired.

If you have ambition to shine in the world, do not confine your talents. Give a good example to your inferiors. Let your servants profit by the elegance of your manners. Practice your newest jokes, puns, &c. before them. In fact, let them hear all your conversation, and view the elegance of your manners. From the parlour it will soon be taken up by the kitchen.

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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It will then gradually steal into the stables ; and soon find its way into every servile office of your household. In this way you will be doing a great deal of good to society, with very little trouble to yourself.

Whatever may be your rank in life, if carriages pass you, occupied by their owners, be sure to pull off your hat. Common politeness will command a return, though they have no more knowledge of you than of Julius Cæsar. It is truly astonishing how this mode of proceeding will raise your consequence among fashionable people : therefore be sure to make it a particular study.

If you should happen, though merely in the way of business, to be discoursing with a person of rank and figure, in any public place, forget half what he is saying to you, though of particular moment, by casting your eyes about, in order to observe who of your acquaintance are taking notice of you in that enviable situation.

If you wish to be esteemed in general society, endeavour as much as possible to disesteem or undervalue the talents of others ; always overlook the doing good offices and little ordinary

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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kindnesses, to those whom you wish to make your friends. Fly into a passion at every word and action, that in your wisdom you may take it in your head to apply as an affront to yourself. On every occasion be the lord of the ascendant; and force the whole company to pay particular attention to your superabundant wisdom!

Ladies of fashion, if they wish to make themselves highly respected among persons of sense and discernment, ought studiously to pay the greatest attention to the etiquette of the day, the rules of visiting, and every other little stilyish punctilio.

Make it the sole employment of one man to register the visits and complimentary cards sent in the course of the day. Employ another servant to leave messages in return. If you should be a resident at any fashionable watering place, you may send an empty carriage, and if the porter bow to it, it will do just the same as if you were there in person. Let the whole register of your visiting accounts, be kept in the same regular manner as debtor and creditor: and supervise your ceremonial ledger every morning, lest you should have left any

## General Rules for Good Breeding.

debt of etiquette unpaid. By this judicious management, you will be rated as a fair merchant, on the fashionable exchange ; for depend upon it, if you should not answer the demand of a single visit, that is drawn upon you, you will immediately be proclaimed a bankrupt in the splendid circle of *La Belle Assemblée* ! A commission of ill-manners will be issued out against you : and you will at once lose all your credit and acquaintance.

Make your visits as long as possible, in order to keep the lady of the mansion from her domestic concerns : for depend upon it, vulgar household affairs should in no case whatever be attended to. It has, from the wisdom of the present age become absolutely gothic and barbarous. Be sure not to let your conversation flag in the least ; but keep up a pretty lisping, mincing chit-chat, from the time you enter till the time you depart, as, “ My dear creature, what have you been doing to make yourself look so charmingly ?—Been using the roseate paste, I’ll be bound for it ! Well it is a charming cosmetic, to be sure ; such a charming fragrance ! You read that affair in the papers about Mrs.—?—Shocking, was it not ? Well, how are

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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your charming children? I will not ask after Mr. T— : he very much affronted me last night, at Mrs. K—'s card party. Pray did you see Hamlet last night? By the bye, that reminds me of Mr. Cooper. Pray have you heard Mr. Primrose deliver any of his enchanting sermons?—A charming young man, and absolutely the best pulpit orator in town. You must go; I'll bespeak a pew, and we'll make a party! I know you will be delighted; but my dear, I'm afraid I'm detaining you," &c.

How delightful and entertaining is all this! —What a simpleton must he be, who, a few centuries ago, observed, "That women have seldom materials to furnish a long discourse, unless they comment upon their neighbour's foibles, and turn their misfortunes into ridicule. What an ill-tempered, old-fashioned brute!

Another antique mortal, of the old school, has somewhere observed, "That a woman divested of modesty, ought to be gazed upon as a monster. (How shocking!) Let her be set off with all the embellishments of art and nature, if a want of modesty be depicted in her face; that vice alone will eclipse every perfection; and, like a dark cloud, overcast all the

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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glittering beams of beauty, wit, and dignity." It is a great pity that this severe philosopher did not live to see the captivating charms of a female form through the elegant and transparent folds of revived Grecian drapery.

It is also said, that a lady, well supplied with modesty, may keep at a distance the most impudent assailant; the same, as when a town is well provided within, and strongly fenced with secure out-works, a general, however well experienced, has not always the courage to attempt a siege; and if he do, he is sure to be discomfited. Pope seems to be of a different opinion, when writing on the ladies' dress of his time—

"Oft have I known that fold-fenc'd seven to fail,  
"Though arm'd with hoops, set round with ribs of whale."

It was formerly said that rakes, so far from attempting gallantry to modest women, scarcely dared look them in the face. It would be very well if the author of the present work could say the same of the rakes of the present day. That this opinion has become obsolete, is obvious from the various fashionable intelli-

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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gence in the news-papers, the elegant and fascinating novels continually issuing from the press, and various other productions, arising from the principles of the *new morality*; for be it known from very high authority, that the *old morality* is very nearly, if not entirely exploded!\*

On the other hand, it has been said by these ancient quizzes of propriety, that a lady, without reserve, endowed with attractive qualities, but having nothing in her manners that guards her virtue, these wild generals are tempted to storm her constancy; and if she lend a patient ear to encomiums on her wit and beauty, she is in imminent danger from the siege. Whether these observations be real or not, the ladies are the best judges.

It is very elegant, and indeed very amusing, for ladies of quality, when they have an idle hour on their hands, to drive into the city; and toss and tumble a shopkeeper's goods over for two or three hours together, asking a thousand

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\* An idea hinted at, in a certain great assembly, on a certain occasion, ought not to be introduced into a treatise of good manners.

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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questions, without purchasing a single article ; but be sure when you are going away, to make an elegant courtesy, accompanied by “ Sir, I am very sorry that I have given you so much trouble.” N. B. You cannot conceive how much tradesmen are pleased with these little attentions.

When a fashionable man is asked by a friend to do him a kindness, he should let it be as it were extorted from him. He should keep him at bay as a purse-proud inn-keeper keeps a necessitated master-builder, when he wants a sum to discharge his workmen’s wages.

If you should happen to be without money, always lay the blame to the shifting of your clothes in a hurry.

However, it is not well to be without cash, though you may frequently have quality to give it a sanction. If the blood of a hero flow in your veins, you make but a poor figure if money have forsaken your pockets ; for regard in general rises and falls by golden influence.

Should you meet with a reduced man of fashion, who formerly carried his head aloft in his chariot, but is now reduced to wear a horseman’s great coat, like an out-clerk to a brewhouse,

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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if he be going to address you, you profit little by my instructions if you do not know how to act. Cross the way as fast as possible.

If you have any desire to shine in politics, particularly if you should have any trifling place, or any office under government, assume a proper and becoming pomposity, carefully observing two rules, that will always carry you through with *eclat*.—The first is, if you receive information from a stranger of the earliest intelligence of the day, pay but a trifling attention to his communication, informing him that you received the intelligence at least a fortnight prior to his detail of the events, from one of your numerous correspondents. On the contrary, if he ask you for political intelligence, put on a grave privy-council countenance; and observe that things of that serious nature are not to be drawn from you on every trifling occasion. But give strong hints that you are in possession of very extraordinary intelligence, though you do not think proper to divulge it. These two simple rules will cause you to pass current as a well-informed politician in every coffee-house and tavern throughout the country !!!

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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Nothing is so likely to make you pleasing in fashionable life, as to meet an acquaintance in a drawing-room with a leering, half-smiling countenance, at the same time putting forth your fore-finger by way of salute, as if you were afraid of some contagion from taking your friend by the hand. Be sure to accompany all this ceremony with lisping out, like a young lady, that is half boarder at a country academy, three miles from the metropolis, “ how de do ? happy to see you 'pon honor,” &c.; or, if he should not happen to be *one of us*, as it is generally termed in polite societies, in fact, very little known among the fashionables, give him a damper at once, by the profile of a face, drawn up in as much form as a long bill of chancery. Certainly all this is far preferable to the open, generous countenance, serving as an index to a liberal mind, and the good old hearty shake of the hand of our gothic fore-fathers. Still as gothic furniture, gothic fronts to houses, &c. are getting every day more and more into fashion, it is not improbable, that by way of variety, the above gothic modes of greeting may be revived amongst our elegant and enlightened cireles.

Pride is a most excellent quality. If you be

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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possessed of any small stock, above the standard of an ordinary mechanie, cultivate it as much as possible. It will ultimately prove of great service to you on various occasions. You may, perhaps, assume a kind of stiffness of manner to every one around you, that may bring you to misery and distress ; whereas, had you stooped in some degree to the natural circumstances of life in general, you might probably have mitigated your sufferings.—But then what becomes of your dignity ? Humility may gain you friends : but dignity gives you consequence. And depend upon it, next to Earl Chesterfield's admired system of the graces, nothing stands higher than consequence and family pride, though attended with a coat out at the elbows, and other trifling inconveniences ! If you be absolutely starving, refuse a dinner, if the person who invites you has not had the honour of being born a gentleman !!

Should you be a kind of polite tradesman, wishing to make a figure in the world, (in the bankrupt list, or otherwise, that is no matter,) always pay the greatest attention to even the appearance or shadow of a man of fashion. Should he chance to be a little known among

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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the higher circles, to have him down to a large amount in your books, is the highest honour that can possibly be conferred on you. Should he happen to be a great man in reality, then you are made for ever, at least you are in constant expectation of the happy event taking place some time or other. Then be sure to boast of this or that particular mark of esteem and honour he has conferred on you on a variety of occasions; such as, "you had the order from his own lips; only think of that; so kind, so condescending. He has not paid me to be sure; but the honour, the honour, Sir, is what I look up to." Should it be your happy fortune to have a man of title and fashion to give you a large order, and afterwards take you in his chariot through some of the principal streets of the metropolis, though you leave your shop and business, pay no regard to that; you are a made man. Be sure while you are inclosed in this box of fashionable elegance, to place yourself so forward on the seat, that your head may be half out of the window, in order to let your acquaintance see the high degree of dignity you are arrived at. From that moment display your consequence. Be as insolent as possible to all your

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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neighbours. Despise and neglect every customer that enters your shop. Attire yourself according to the costume of the most fashionable part of the community. If you follow up these instructions with spirit and propriety, there is no doubt but you will arrive at the felicity of a WHEREAS, before the year is expired. There have been instances, to be sure, of people recovering from the fashionable mania: but as my maxims tend to establish these dashing principles, it would be rather out of the line of education to enumerate them.

There is, however, one instance which occurred lately in the city that may serve to illustrate the sudden effects of the prevailing dis temper.

A man of distinction happened to alight from an elegant close carriage, richly ornamented, &c. at the shop of an humble tradesman. Perceiving himself mistaken, with that kind of refined politesse peculiar to people of quality, he begged ten thousand pardons of the little shopkeeper, who appeared completely overwhelmed with the honor. His very wig seemed to stand on end. His jet black shoes and little square buckles, reflected additional lustre: and after a

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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few mutual exchanges of civilities, he ventured to set the gentleman right: but mark the effect this trifling incident had on the frame of the little consequential retail dealer!—In less than four and twenty hours, he felt such sudden shoots of pride and vanity as threw him into an intermitting fever! The gentleman's name was night and day in his mouth: and it was the Lord knows how long before the poor man recovered his right senses!

If you be a person of quality, always endeavour to erase from your recollection, that trade and learning have been the two chief steps to the grand basis on which your ancestors built your present fortune.

It is pleasant to hear a man, who by mere chance, has amassed together a considerable sum of money, talk of the dignity of his family, with various wonderful relations of occurrences that happened during their progress through life; similar to the Irishman, who happening to arrive in England on a rejoicing day, always felt a pride in informing his companions, that the bells rang all the way from his landing at Chester till his arrival in London, because he travelled in a stage coach.

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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On the other hand it is equally entertaining to hear a man of present prosperity boast of his former poverty, particularly to a friend who would dispense with the observations ; as, “ Ah, Jack, times are changed for the better since you and I tramped up to town here, with four-pence halfpenny between us. You remember nicking the old woman out of a pot of beer, I dares to say. But never mind, my hearty. We have got hold of the mopusses now : and let’s keep ’em. Nothing like scraping and scraping : ‘ every little makes a mickle,’ as Dick Thompson of our village used to say !”

If you should wish to be thought a man of learning, aver that in your youth you had laid in a large stock for your old age ; but, unhappily, you have lived long enough to forget the whole.

When a stranger enters a public room, whisper to your friends in order to know who he is, and where he came from, with your eyes fixed full on his face. Such behaviour, well applied, will raise a blush even on the cheeks of a brazier, to your no small amusement and gratification.

If you do not think yourself sufficiently stock-

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General Rules for Good Breeding.

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ed with assurance to make this open attack, you may use another manœuvre. Wait till he has quitted the room ; then make your enquiries in every corner, and possible direction. Though the matter does not in the least concern you, still it gratifies a laudable curiosity, similar to a country vicar making enquiries concerning his parishioners on his introduction to a new living.

Rush into your friend's room without giving the smallest previous notice, exclaiming, “D—n it, Jack, how goes it? here am I, as fresh as a four-year old.” Then enter into a minute recapitulation of all the follies and extravagancies of the preceding evening.

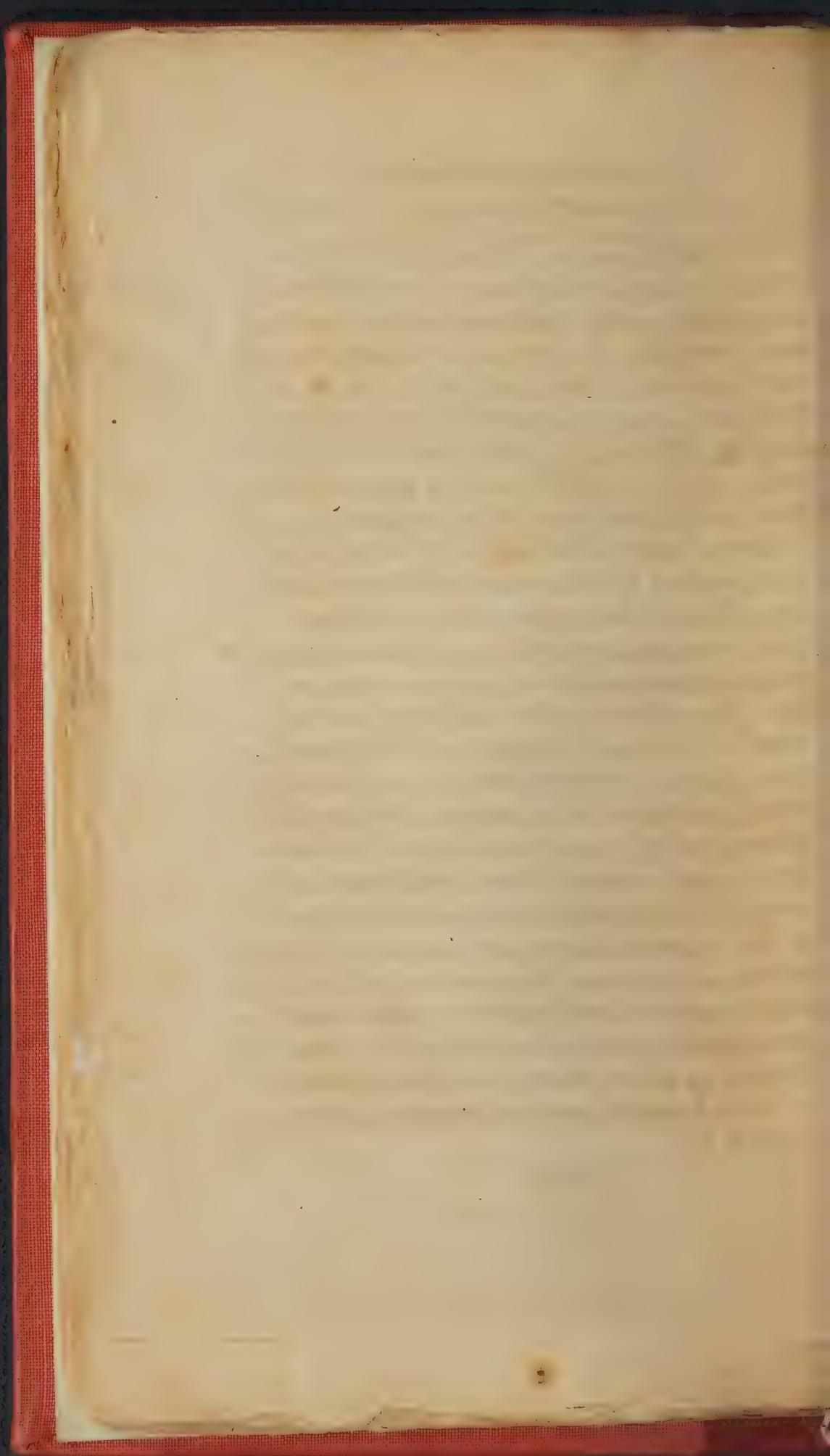
Good breeding and ceremony may be carried on with the happiest effect in every class of society ; for instance, in a gentleman's family, the cook, with the greatest politeness, acquaints the neighbouring butcher, that himself, and a friend or two intend doing themselves the honour, in a few days, of ealling to crack a marrow-bone with him. The kitchen-maid informs the baker's journeyman, that her master shall be at home from six till nine in the evening ; before that time it will be impossible for her to

## General Rules for Good Breeding.

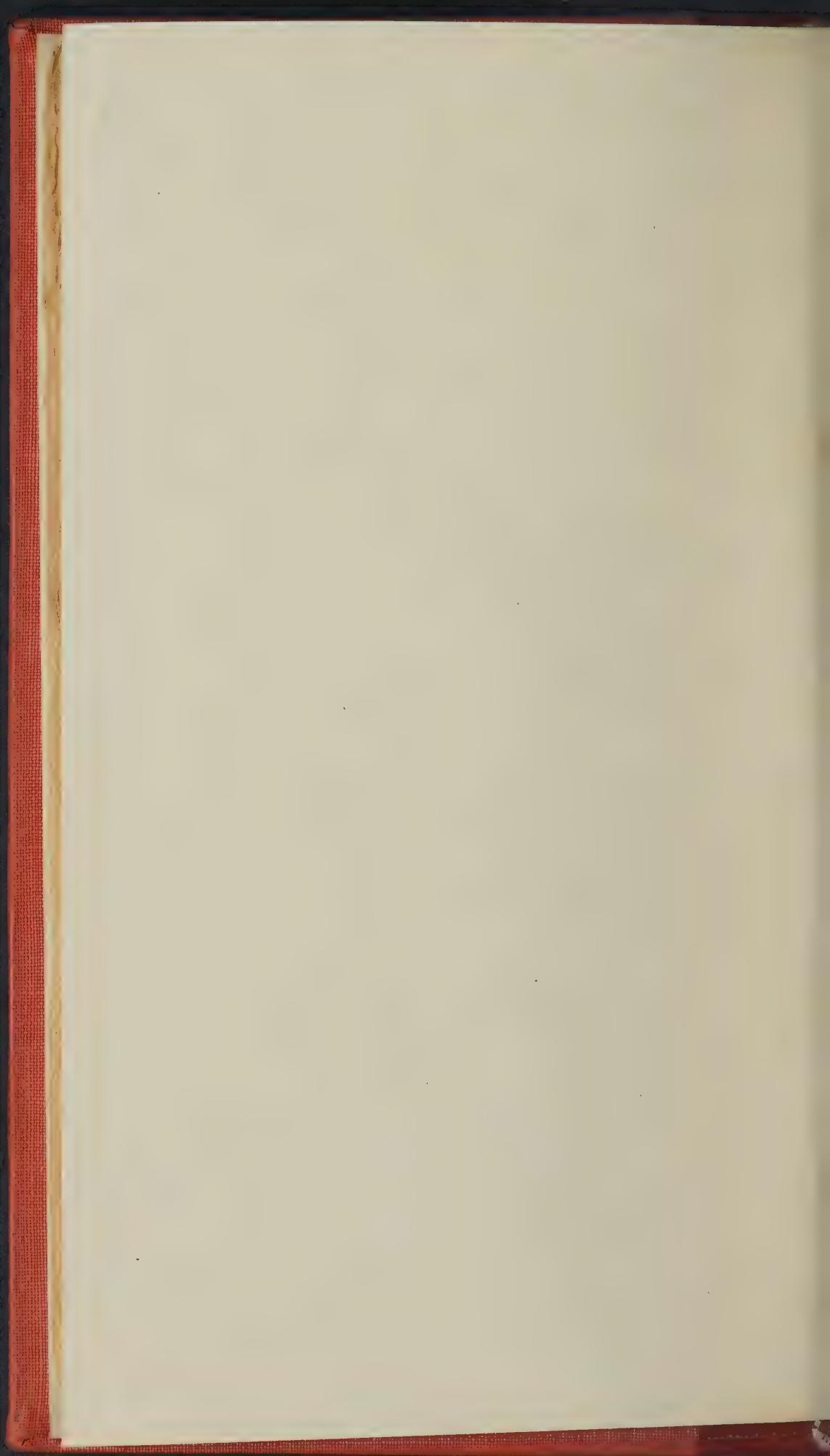
see company. The coachman may give a still more formidable invitation to the stable-keeper, telling him he shall expect to see him at a little *pittit suppy* he intends to give to a few friends; but that he will give him a few days notice, so that business may not prevent him from having the pleasure of his company.

Having come to the end of my precepts, I shall conclude with a description of what a modern man of fashion ought to be in the aggregate. In the first place, he has no occasion whatever to be possessed of wit, or any peculiar genius. He must talk rather than hear; and always flatter himself that he is the best judge of every topic in conversation that is introduced where he happens to be company. He should always resolve before he deliberates. He must lay in a good stock of flattery and bronze, to carry it through with *eclat*. He must be a slave to the reigning follies of the day—a lounger in town—a sportsman in the country; and pretend to a perfect knowledge of the highest and most dashing orders of society every where. To sum up all, he must be the direct opposite to what a man of sense and superior abilities ought to be.

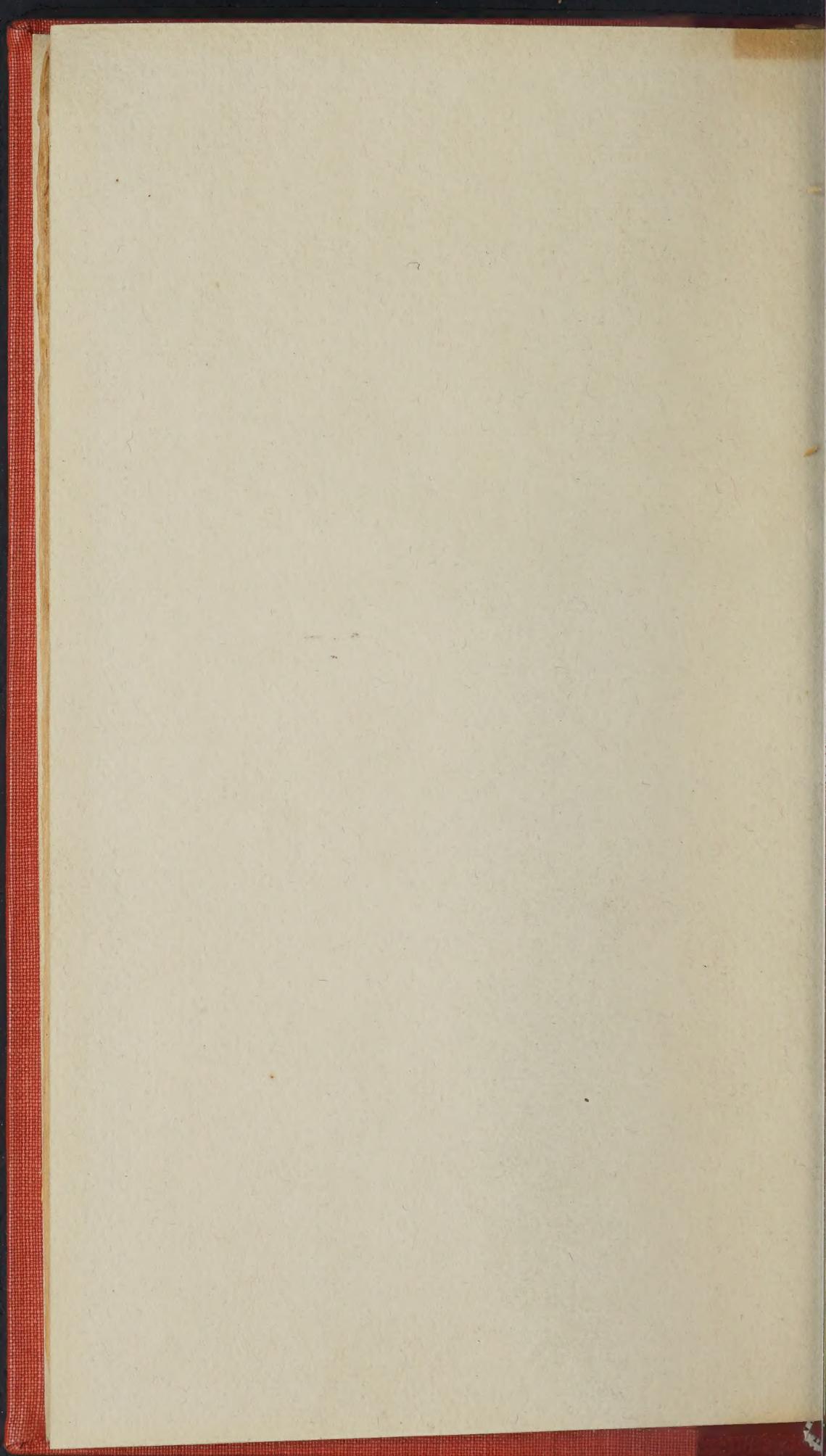
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